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PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: HERTWECK, G. ET AL. - 1 (PCT)

PCT NO.: PCT/EP2003/012936

FILED: NOVEMBER 19, 2003

TITLE: SLIDING VALVE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**MAIL STOP PCT**

Commissioner of Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the initial Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 6 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.